UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
LY, NGHI H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/447,284	CAO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	NGHI H. LY	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08/10/09*.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4,5,9,10,19,20 and 30-39* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4,5,9,10,19,20 and 30-39* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art
> are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to
> a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the

claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the

various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were

made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g)

prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3.   Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 30-34, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Sato (JP07212829A) in view of Borland et al (US 6,556,965) and

further in view of Young, III (US 5,694,467).

        Regarding claim 1, Sato teaches a cordless telephone (see Title and Abstract),

comprising: a remote handset (see Drawing handset 37), a base unit matched to the

remote handset (see Drawing base unit 24), and an audio player integrated within at

least one of the remote handset and the base unit (see Title, Abstract and Detailed

Description).

Sato does not specifically disclose an MPEG audio integrated within <u>at least one</u> of the remote handset and the base unit.

Borland teaches an MPEG audio integrated within <u>at least one</u> of the remote handset and the base unit (see Abstract, column 5, lines 37-40, column 4, lines 7-21, "MP3", and column 4, lines 48-66, "MPEG" and "MP3", also see column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 7, "MPEG" and see column 5, lines 24-28).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Borland into the system of Sato in order to provide high quality audio signal (see Borland, Abstract).

The combination of Sato and Borland does not specifically disclose a summer adapted to digitally sum a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream to allow a user of said cordless telephone to hear said cordless telephone ringing along with music.

Young teaches a summer adapted to digitally sum a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream to allow a user of said cordless telephone to hear said cordless telephone ringing along with music (see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention <u>would operate identically with digital</u> or other type telephones*", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is connected to a <u>mixer</u> with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient noise, and a ring tone from the phone*", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can hear the telephone ring while listen to music***", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a cordless*").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Young into the system of Sato

and Borland in order to improve in sound headset systems and telephone headset

systems (see Young, column 1, lines 7-9).

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young teaches the

MPEG audio player is integrated within the remote handset (see Sato, Title, Abstract

and Detailed Description, and/or see Borland, column 5, lines 24-28).

Regarding claims 4 and 5, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further

teaches the MPEG audio player is an MP3 (see Borland, Abstract, "MP3", column 4,

lines 7-21, "MP3").

Regarding claim 30, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further teaches

the base unit is adapted (i) to receive from a telephone line a telephone audio signal

representing a telephone conversation and (ii) to transmit the telephone audio signal to

said remote handset (see Borland, column 5, lines 24-28 and column 4, lines 27-33, see

"storage in portable systems" and column 4, lines 43-47, see "playback"), and said

summer is further adapted to digitally sum the telephone audio signal representing the

telephone conversation with the MPEG audio bit stream (see Young, see column 3,

lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically*

with digital or other type telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a*

user headset is connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic

detecting ambient noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30,

see "*so they can hear the telephone ring while listen to music*", also see column 5,

lines 50-60, see "*a **cordless***").

Regarding claim 31, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further

teaches the telephone audio signal is monaural, the MPEG audio bit stream has a

plurality of stereo channels (see Borland, column 5, lines 24-28 and column 4, lines 27-

33, see "storage in portable systems" and column 4, lines 43-47, see "playback"), and

the summer is adapted to digitally sum the monaural telephone audio signal into each of

the plurality of stereo channels of the MPEG audio bit stream, such that a sense of

balance in the user is improved (see Young, see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines

27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or other type*

telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is*

connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can***

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

Regarding claim 32, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further

teaches both said MPEG audio player and said summer are jointly implemented as a

single digital signal processor adapted to digitally sum the digitally synthesized ring tone

with the MPEG audio bit stream (see Young, see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines

27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or other type*

telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is*

connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can***

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

Regarding claim 33, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further

teaches the digital signal processor is adapted to digitally sum the digitally synthesized

ring tone with the MPEG audio bit stream by: (i) decoding the MPEG audio bit stream to

produce a digital reconstructed audio signal, and (ii) digitally summing the digital

reconstructed audio signal with the digitally synthesized ring tone to produce a digital

summed audio signal (see Young, see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34,

see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or other type*

telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is*

connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can***

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

Regarding claim 34, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further

teaches the cordless telephone further comprises: a digital-to-analog converter

connected to said digital signal processor to receive the digital summed audio signal

and to produce an analog audio signal suitable for outputting to the user (see Young,

see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would*

operate identically with digital or other type telephones", also see Abstract and column

2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music*

Source, a mic detecting ambient noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4,

lines 24-30, see "**so they can hear the telephone ring while listen to music**", also

see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a **cordless***").

Regarding claim 38, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further teaches

the step of digitally summing the digitally synthesized ring tone with the MPEG audio bit

stream comprises: the digital signal processor decoding the MPEG audio bit stream to

produce a digital reconstructed audio signal, and the digital signal processor digitally

summing the digital reconstructed audio signal with the digitally synthesized ring tone to

produce a digital summed audio signal (see Young, see column 3, lines 18-21, column

4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or other*

type telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is*

connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "**so they can**

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

Regarding claim 39, the combination of Sato, Borland and Young further teaches

digital-to-analog converting the digital summed audio signal to produce an analog audio

signal suitable for outputting to the user (see Young, see column 3, lines 18-21, column

4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or other*

type telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is*

connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "**so they can**

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

4.   Claims 9, 10, 19, 20 and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Sato (JP07212829A) in view of Borland et al (US 6,556,965) and

further in view of Young, III (US 5,694,467) and Tuoriniemi et al (US 5,978,689).

Regarding claims 9 and 19, Sato teaches a method of integrating an MPEG

audio player in a cordless telephone (see Title and Abstract) comprising: playing of the

pre-loaded music from the remote handset of a cordless telephone (see Title, Abstract

and Detailed Description), connecting a base unit of the cordless telephone to a public

switch telephone network (the base unit of cordless telephone of Sato inherently

connect to a public switch telephone network).

Sato does not specifically disclose a method of integrating an MPEG audio

player in a cordless telephone and playing of the pre-loaded MP3.

Borland teaches a method of integrating an MPEG audio player in a cordless

telephone and playing of the pre-loaded MP3 (see column 5, lines 24-28 and column 4,

lines 27-33, see "storage in portable systems" and column 4, lines 43-47, see

"playback").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Borland into the system of Sato

in order to provide high quality audio signal (see Borland, Abstract).

The combination of Sato and Borland does not specifically disclose digitally summing a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream to allow a user of said cordless telephone to hear said cordless telephone ringing along with music.

Young teaches digitally summing a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream to allow a user of said cordless telephone to hear said cordless telephone ringing along with music (see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention <u>would operate identically with digital</u> or other type telephones*", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is connected to a <u>mixer</u> with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient noise, and a ring tone from the phone*", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can hear the telephone ring while listen to music***", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a **cordless***").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Young into the system of Sato, and Borland in order to improve in sound headset systems and telephone headset systems (see Young, column 1, lines 7-9).

The combination of Sato, Borland and Young does not specifically disclose muting the playing of the pre-loaded music when the remote handset is active in a current telephone call.

Tuoriniemi teaches muting the playing of the pre-loaded music (see column 9, lines 17-20) when the remote handset is active in a current telephone call (see column 7, lines 49-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to provide the teaching of Tuoriniemi into the system of

Sato, Borland and Young so that the user won't miss the telephone call while enjoy

listening to music.

Regarding claims 10 and 20, the combination of Sato, Borland, Young and

Tuoriniemi further teaches muting pauses the playing of the pre-loaded music (see

Tuoriniemi, column 9, lines 17-20).

Regarding claim 35, the combination of Sato, Borland, Young and Tuoriniemi

further teaches the base unit receiving from the PSTN a telephone audio signal

representing a conversation (see Sato, Title, Abstract and Detailed Description and the

base unit of cordless telephone of Sato inherently connect to a public switch telephone

network), the base unit transmitting the telephone audio signal to the remote handset,

and the remote handset digitally summing the telephone audio signal representing the

telephone conversation with the MPEG audio bit stream (see Young, see column 3,

lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically*

with digital or other type telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a*

user headset is connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic

detecting ambient noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30,

see "***so they can hear the telephone ring while listen to music***", also see column 5,

lines 50-60, see "*a **cordless***").

Regarding claim 36, the combination of Sato, Borland, Young and Tuoriniemi

further teaches the telephone audio signal is monaural, and the MPEG audio bit stream

has a plurality of stereo channels (see Borland, column 5, lines 24-28 and column 4,

lines 27-33, see "storage in portable systems" and column 4, lines 43-47, see

"playback"), and the step of digitally summing the telephone audio signal with the MPEG

audio bit stream comprises digitally summing the monaural telephone audio signal into

each of the plurality of stereo channels of the MPEG audio bit stream, such that a sense

of balance in the user is improved (see Young, see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4,

lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or other*

type telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is*

connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can***

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

  Regarding claim 37, the combination of Sato, Borland, Young and Tuoriniemi

further teaches the steps of (i) playing pre-loaded MP3 music from the remote handset

of said cordless telephone (see Borland, column 5, lines 24-28 and column 4, lines 27-

33, see "storage in portable systems" and column 4, lines 43-47, see "playback") and (ii)

digitally summing the telephone audio signal with the MPEG audio bit stream are

performed by a single digital signal processor (see Young, see column 3, lines 18-21,

column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or*

other type telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset*

is connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can***

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 08/10/09 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

On page 6 of applicant's remarks, applicant argues that one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine

the teaching of Borland into the system of Sato.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the

references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by

combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention

where there is some teaching, suggestion, <u>or motivation to do so found either in the</u>

<u>references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in</u>

<u>the art</u>. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re*

Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the motivation to

do so found in the references themselves, in order to provide high quality audio signal

(see Borland, Abstract).

On page 7 of applicant's remarks, applicant argues that "*The Applicants*

disagree, however, that these cited portions of Young teach a summer adapted to

digitally sum a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream".

In response, applicant argues the subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention, the newly added limitations (filed 07/14/08 and 03/02/09) recite "***a summer adapted to digitally sum a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream to allow a user of said cordless telephone to hear said cordless telephone ringing along with music***".

The applicant's specification (page 13, lines 6-11), however, merely discloses "*an audible ring may be **included** in the output audio bit stream music so that a user listening to the MP3 music may hear the telephone ringing along with their music. To this extent, a synthesized tone may be summed with the played MP3 digital audio bit stream music at a level which is preferably distinctly audible to the user*".

In this case, the specification discloses: <u>a synthesized tone</u> [<u>NOT</u> the ring] may <u>be summed</u> with the played MP3 digital audio bit stream music.

The specification fails to further disclose: ***a summer*** adapted to ***digitally sum*** a ***digitally synthesized ring tone*** with an audio bit stream to allow a user of said cordless telephone to hear said cordless telephone ringing along with music.

Therefore, Young indeed teaches a summer adapted to digitally sum (or **include**) a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream (see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention <u>would operate identically with digital</u> or other type telephones*", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is connected to a <u>mixer</u> with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient*

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can***

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

On page 8 of applicant's remarks, applicant argues "Young provides no teaching

or suggestion whatsoever regarding a synthesized ring tone.

In response, applicant's specification fails to disclose the newly added "*a*

synthesized ring tone", and the applicant's specification fails to further disclose: ***a***

summer *adapted to* ***digitally sum*** *a* ***digitally synthesized*** ***ring tone*** *with an audio bit*

stream to allow a user of said cordless telephone to hear said cordless telephone

ringing along with music.

Therefore, Young indeed teaches a summer adapted to digitally sum (or **include**)

a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream (see column 3, lines 18-21,

column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention <u>would operate identically with digital</u> or*

other type telephones", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset*

is connected to a <u>mixer</u> with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient

noise, and a ring tone from the phone", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can***

hear the telephone ring while listen to music", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a*

cordless").

On page 8 of applicant's remarks, applicant argues that "*Young provides no*

teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding an MPEG audio bit stream. As such,

Young neither teaches nor even suggests "a summer to digitally sum a digitally

synthesized ring tone with an MPEG audio bit stream," as recited by claim 1.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.,* 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In this case, Borland (not Young) teaches an MPEG audio bit stream (see Abstract, column 5, lines 37-40, column 4, lines 7-21, "MP3", and column 4, lines 48-66, "MPEG" and "MP3", also see column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 7, "MPEG" and see column 5, lines 24-28), and Young indeed teaches a summer adapted to digitally sum (or **include**) a digitally synthesized ring tone with an audio bit stream (see column 3, lines 18-21, column 4, lines 27-34, see "*the present invention would operate identically with digital or other type telephones*", also see Abstract and column 2, lines 9-24, see "*a user headset is connected to a mixer with audio input from a Music Source, a mic detecting ambient noise, and a ring tone from the phone*", see column 4, lines 24-30, see "***so they can hear the telephone ring while listen to music***", also see column 5, lines 50-60, see "*a **cordless***"), and the combination of Sato, Borland and Young indeed teaches applicant's claims. In addition, applicant's attention is directed to the teaching of Sato, Borland and Young above.

Conclusion

6.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to NGHI H. LY whose telephone number is (571)272-7911.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-8:00pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached on (571) 272-7023. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nghi H. Ly

/Nghi H. Ly/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2617